

7 May 1956

MEMO:  
FROM:

SUBJECT: Altitude Indoctrination

1. Since our earlier conversation concerning the altitude chamber flight at WADC for newly assigned pilots, [REDACTED] re-coordinated with Surgeon General's office and it has been decided that we will have to go on with the chamber flights as in the past. However, they believe, as do we, that it should be used as only a training aid and not to be construed as a selection device as in the past. In other words, we will accept the pilots on the basis of our physical examinations, and even if they should develop slight case of bends, etc., it will not mean their expulsion from the program.

2. They will buy along with us that at least we give in our actual work the extra protection by our preoxygenation program that will preclude the dangers that might occur under plain altitude chamber conditions, and for that reason, mild bends, etc., are not of consequence under the conditions found at WADC.

3. [REDACTED] has been convinced that this will give us all extra protection just in case something should ever happen, and then no one would be able to raise an eyebrow at us in the future. From that standpoint, I would buy it, too, even though we know from experience that the equipment works. He has gone through WADC and they have finally agreed to take them through on our say-so as far as the physical is concerned and will cause us no extra delays as they have in the past. This had been one of the reasons that we wanted to stop the process, and since that will no longer cause us trouble, it will be all right.

Noted. 7 May 56  
J.A.H.